A strategy for defining research priorities: survey results for Cassava/Sweetpotato

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CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas

16th Triennial Symposium of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops, Abeokuta, Nigeria, 23-28 September, 2012

Overview

- A strategic assessment of research priorities for RTB
- Framework: Six stage process
- Scoring: Expert survey GCP21-II Kampala, Uganda, 18- 22 June 2012; Sweet Potato survey in Kenya, Sep 11-14
- Characteristics of respondents
- Constraints and trends
- Research options prioritized
- Principal component analysis results
- Implications: next steps

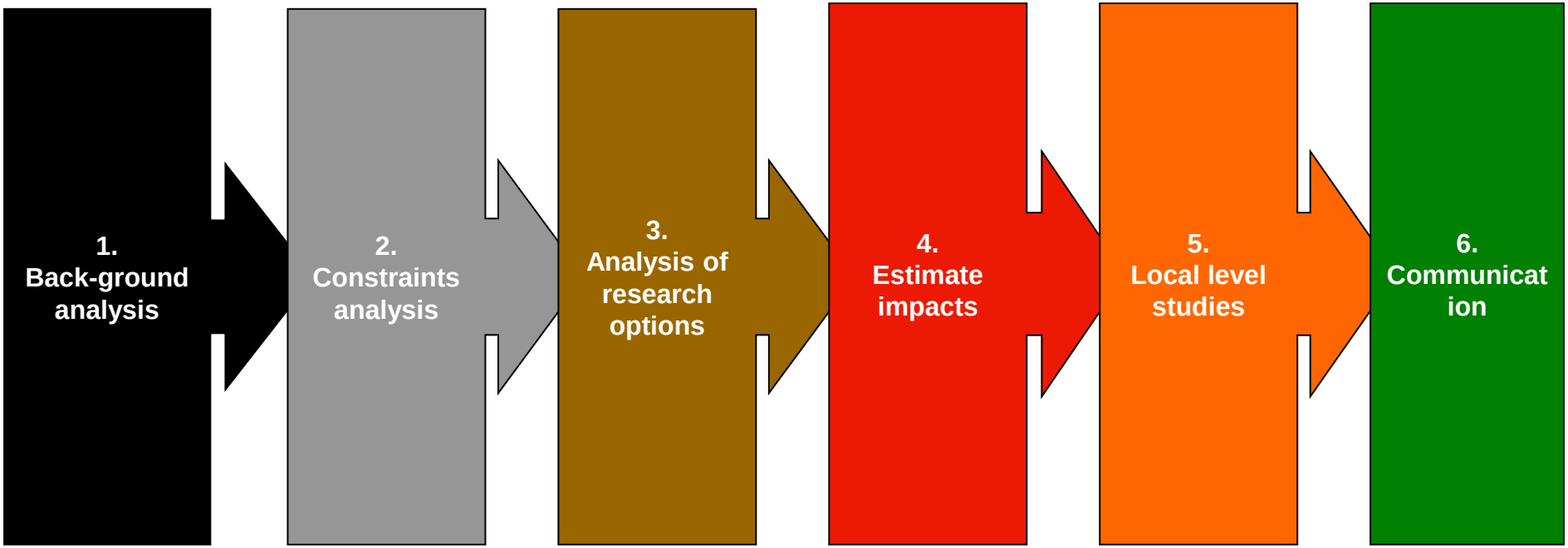
Strategic assessment of research priorities for RTB

- Resources for CRP-RTB limited
- How best invest resources to achieve food security & income (& SLOs):
- Geography x Constraints x Crops x Research Options = Research activities
- e.g. 8x10x6x90=43,200 => overwhelming
- Systematic procedure for organizing information => set priorities

Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas

Framework: Six stage process

Stakeholder engagement

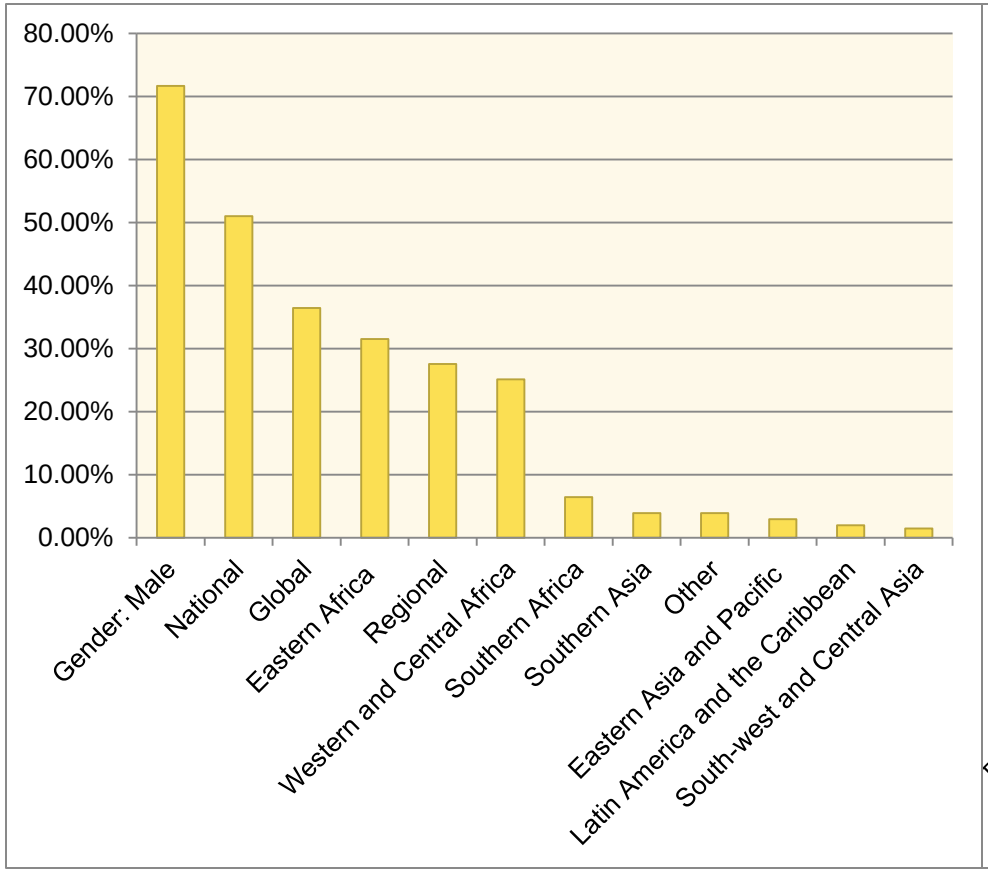


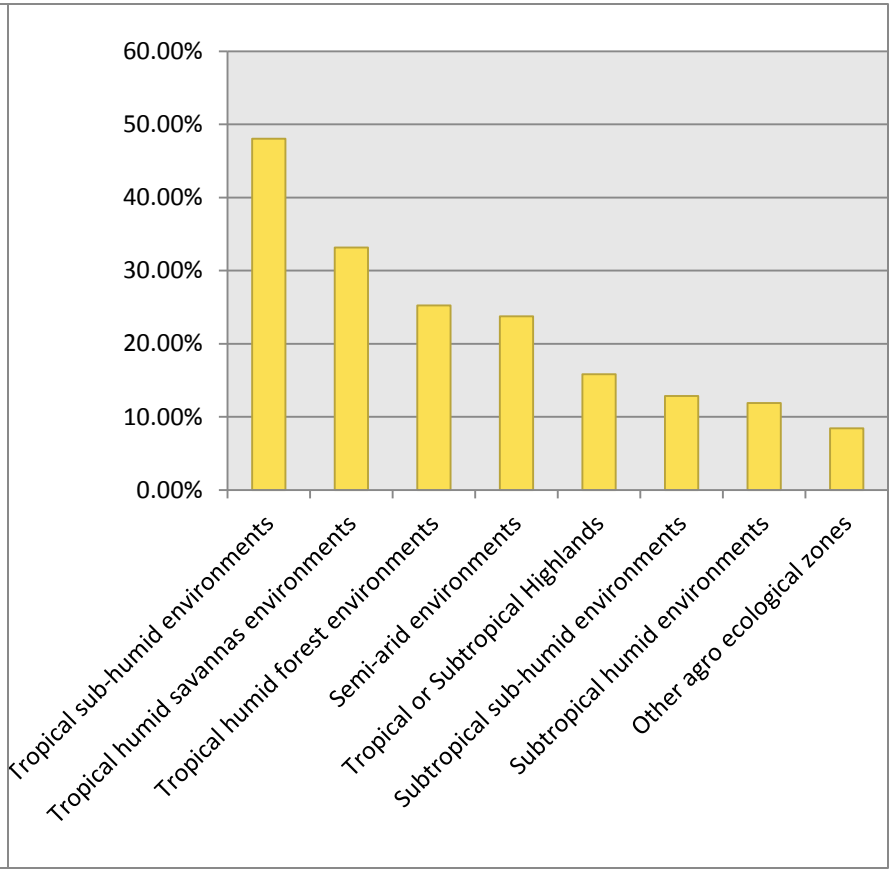
Priority Setting Taskforce

Scoring: Expert survey GCP21-II

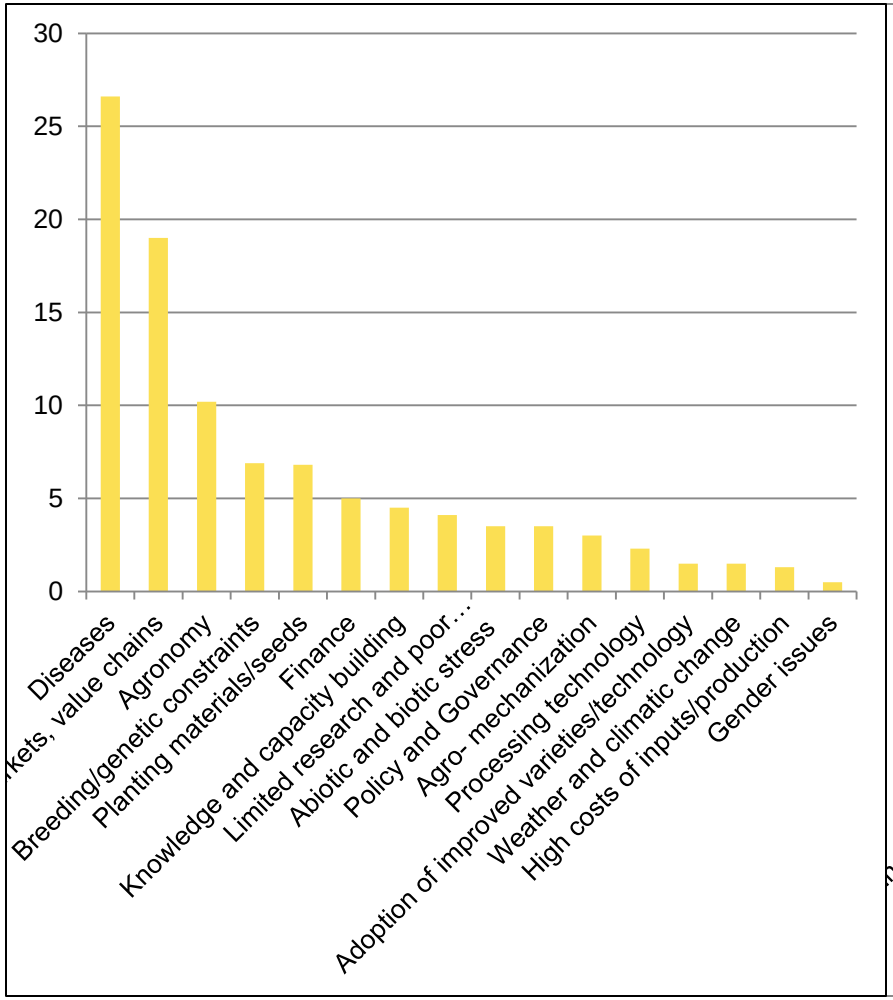
- Scoring: Rank alternatives
- Expert survey GCP21-II Kampala, Uganda, 18- 22 June 2012
- Questionnaire survey
- Open-ended questions: Constraints & trends: Rank tallying of frequencies of responses
- Rating: 89 Research options: Each alternative numerical score of importance/mean score priority
- Implications: next steps

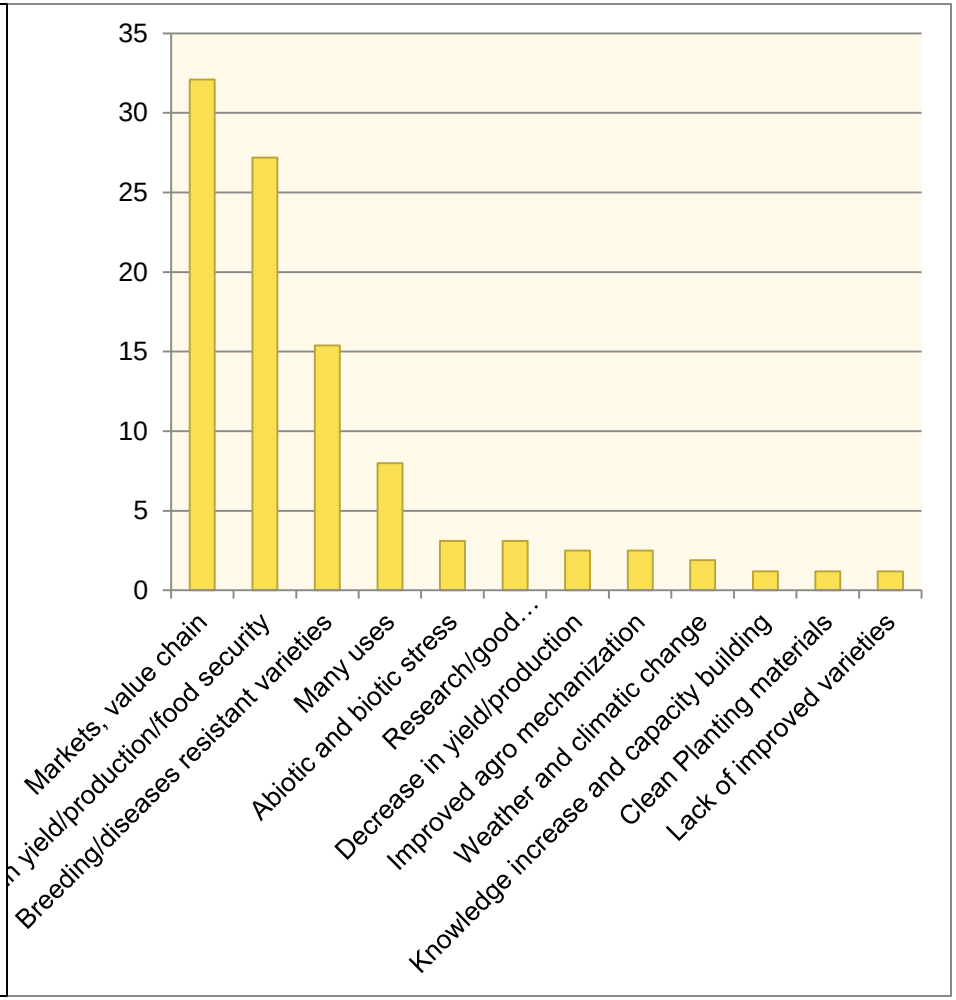
Characteristics of respondents



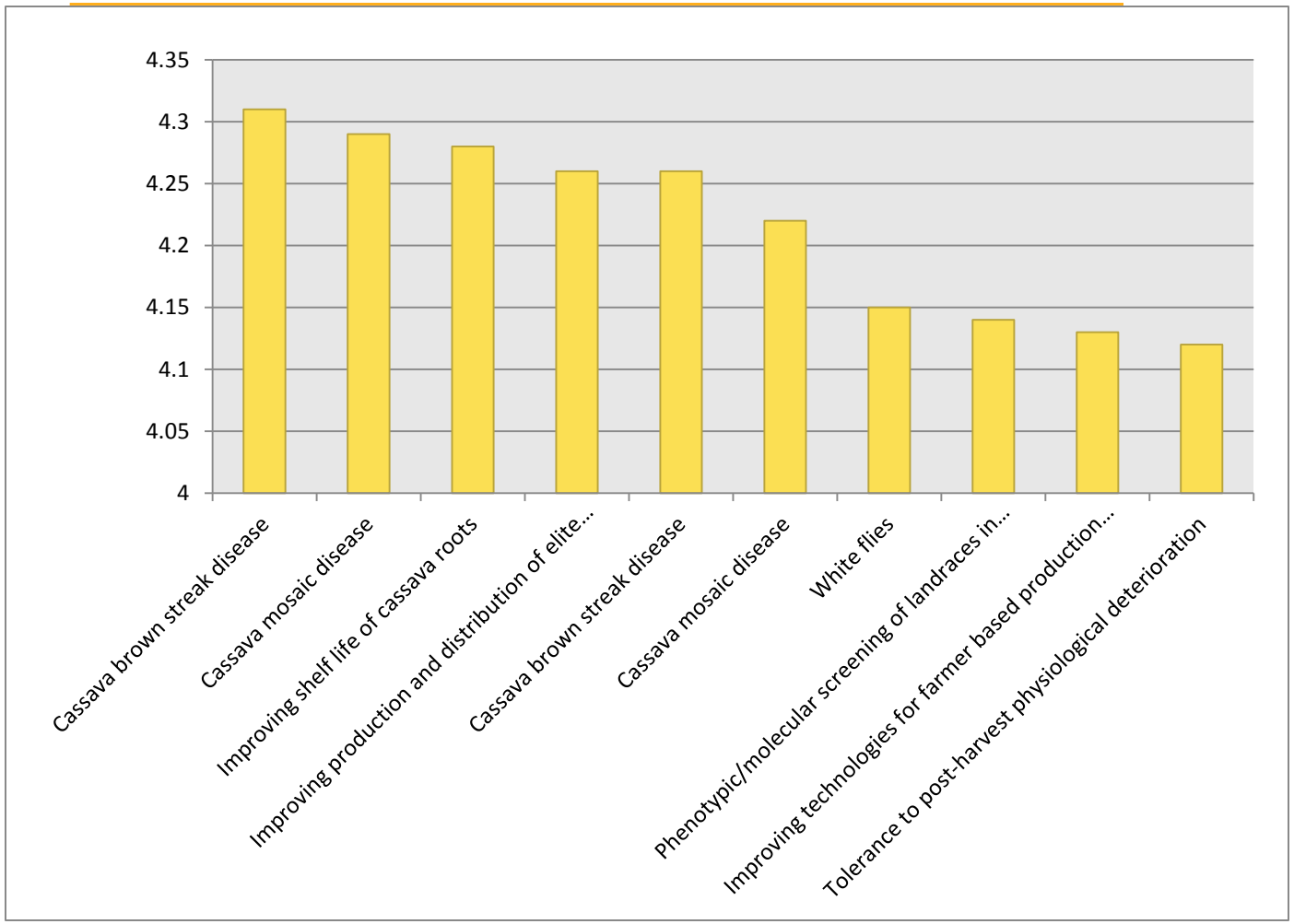


Constraints and trends





Research options prioritized: top 10



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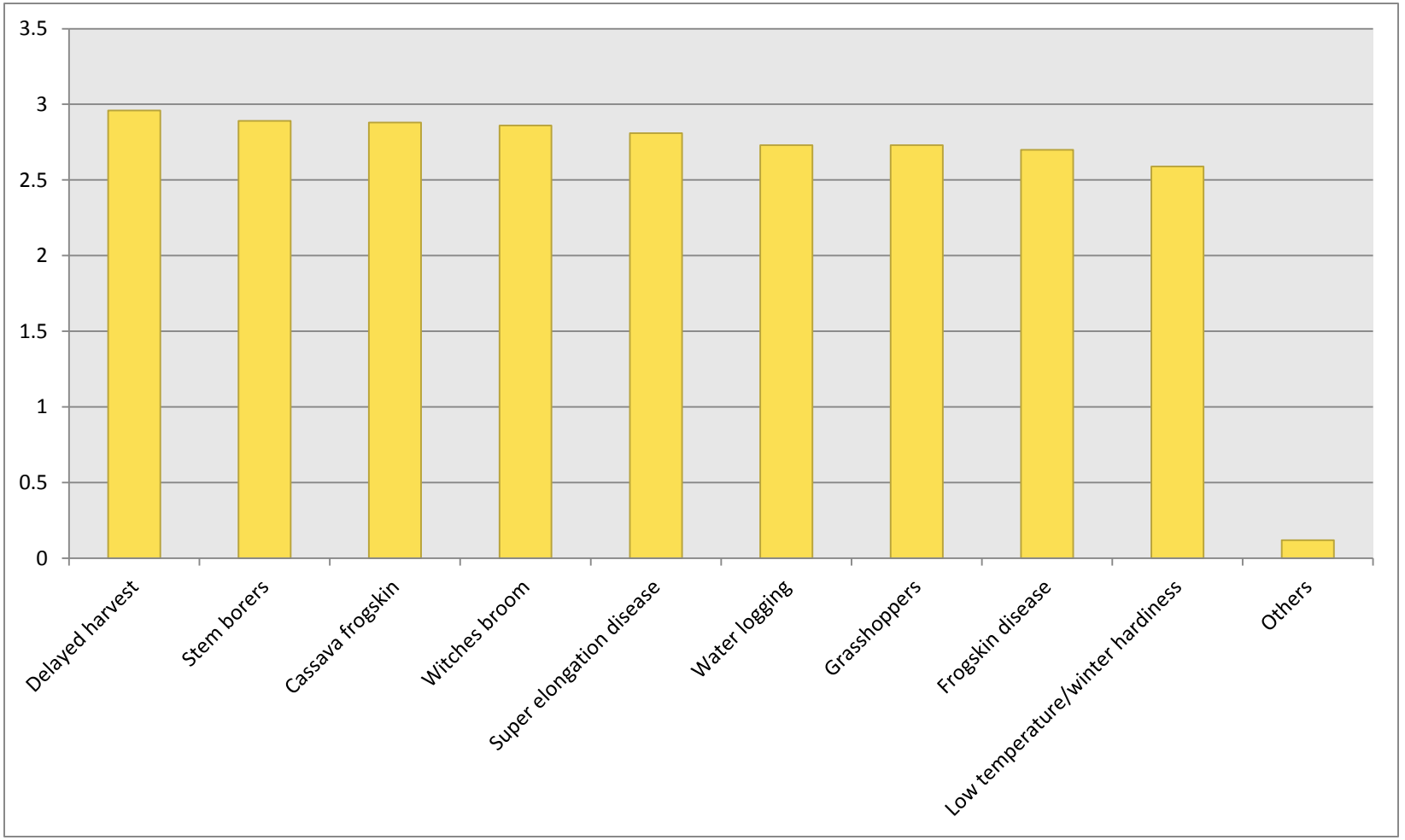
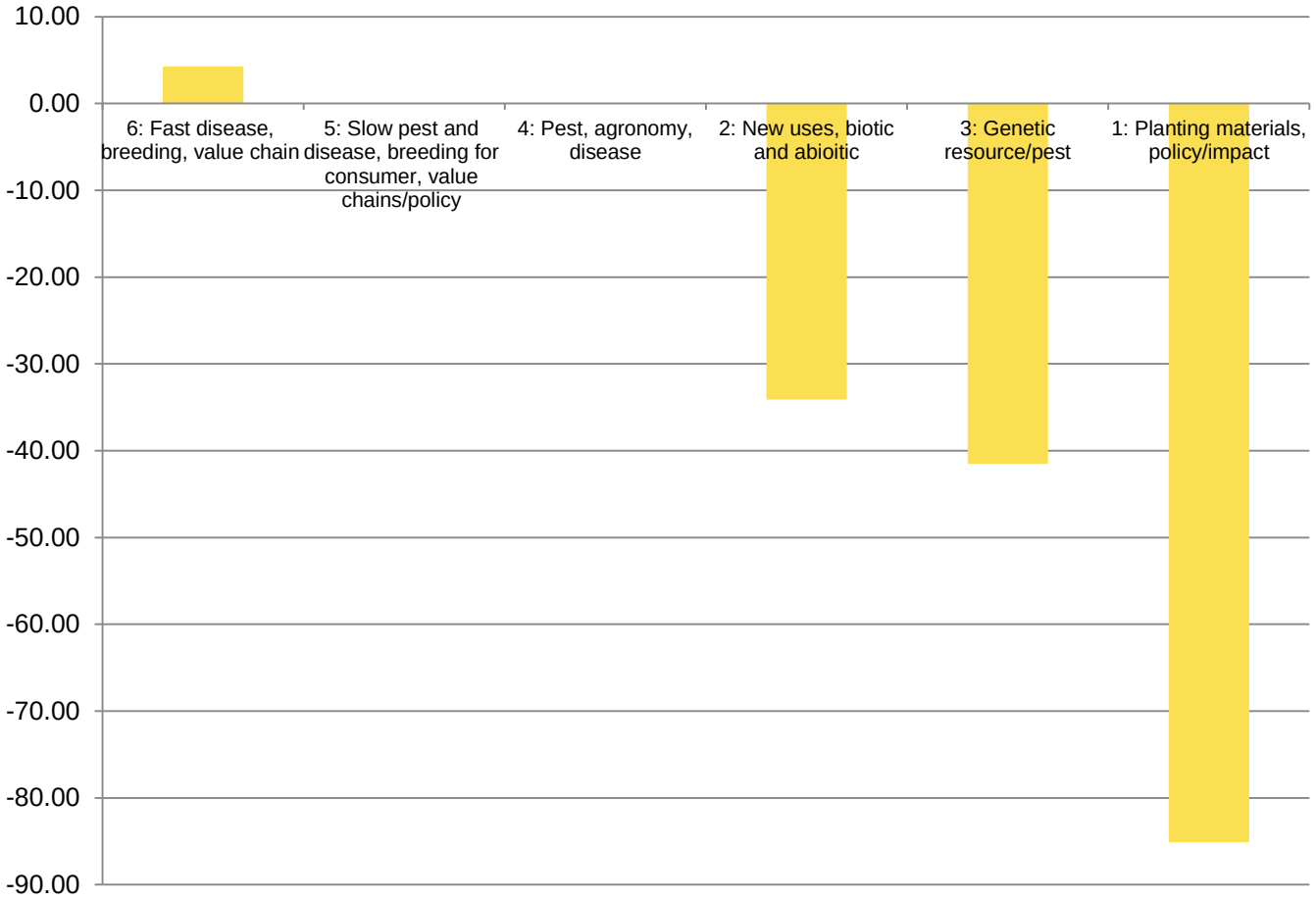
Research options prioritized: bottom 10



Principal Components Analysis: Results



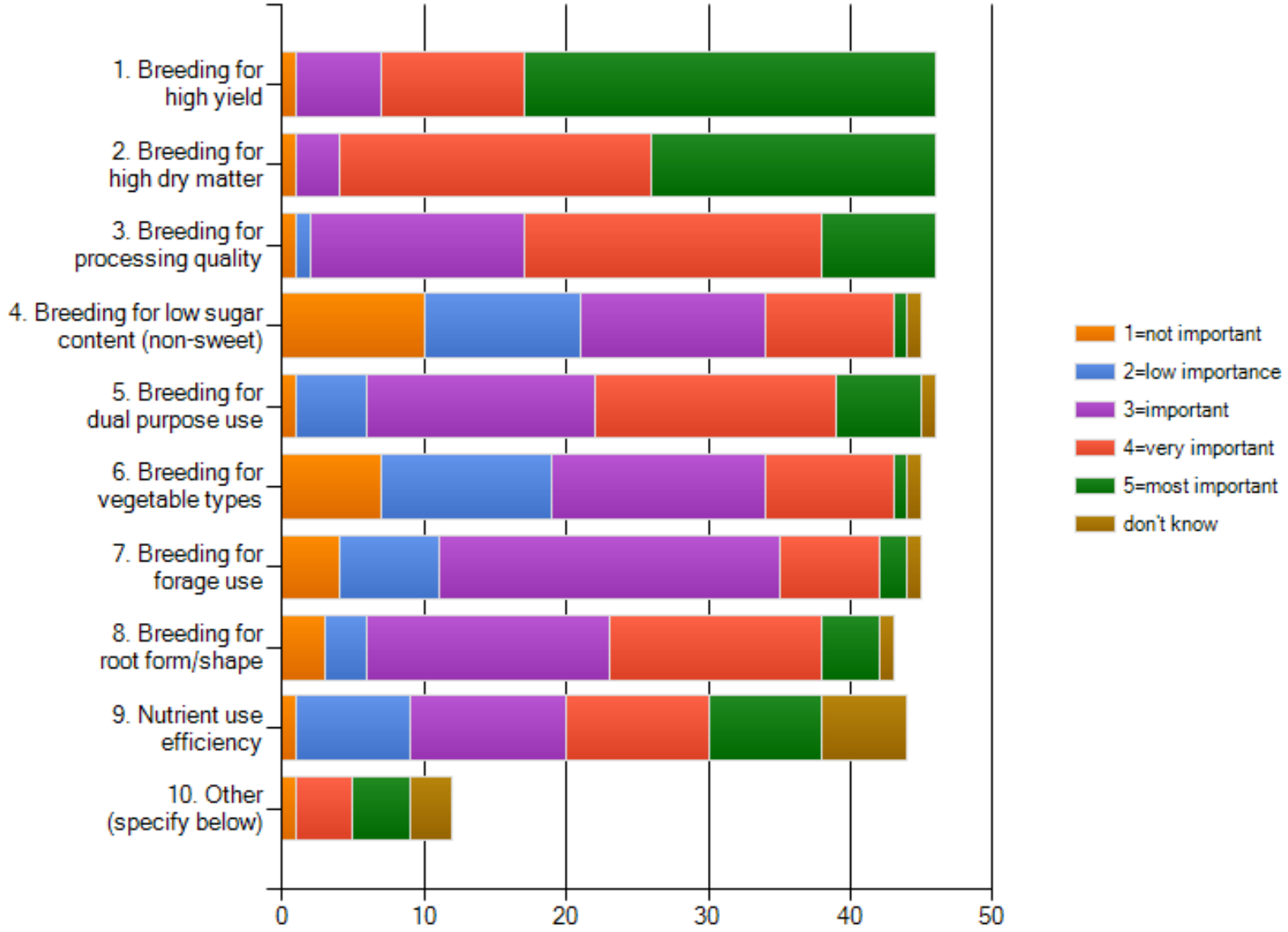
Preliminary Results from a Sweet Potato survey:

Based on 52 completed surveys, September 2012

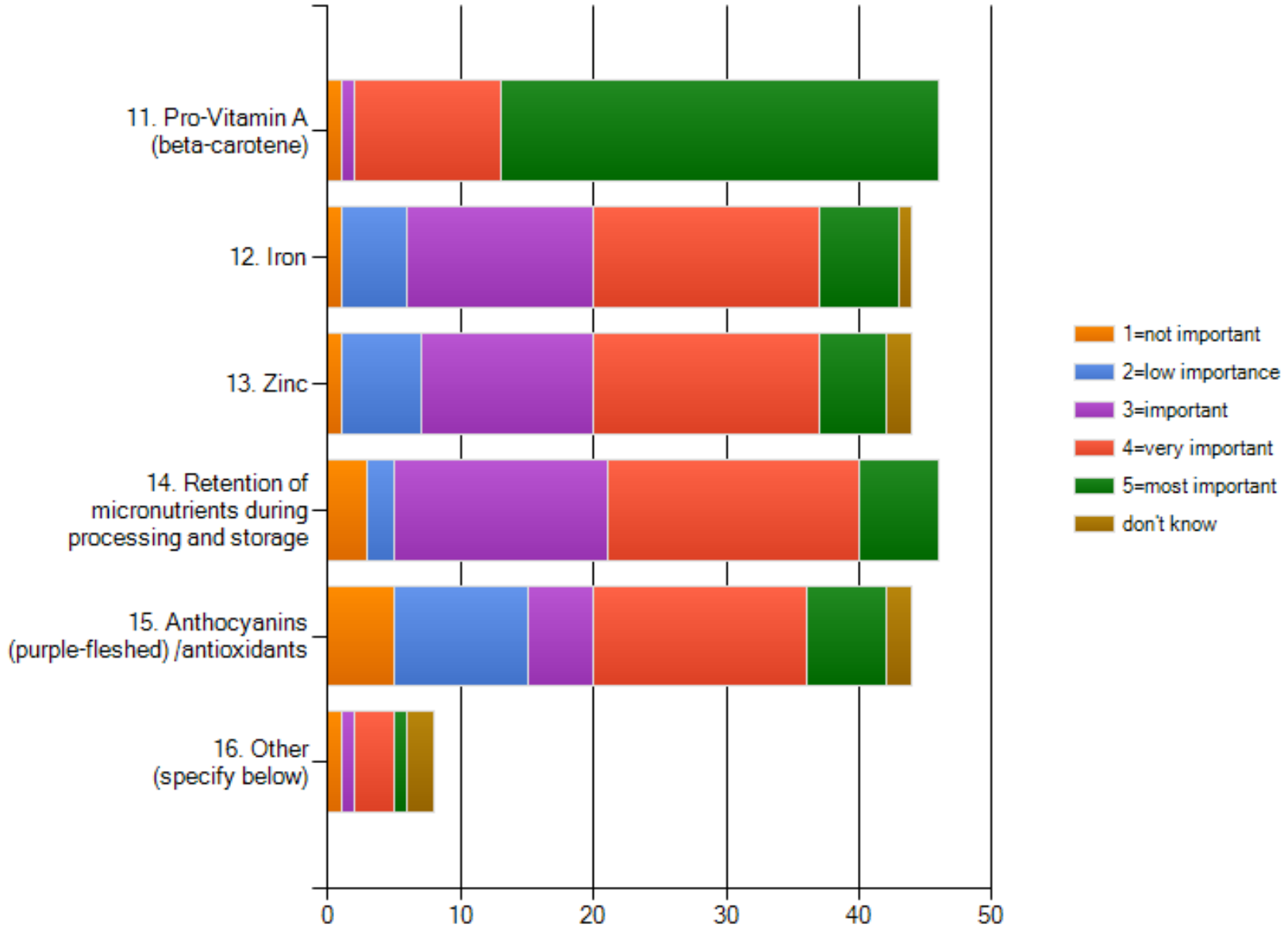
Frequency of responses for each research option



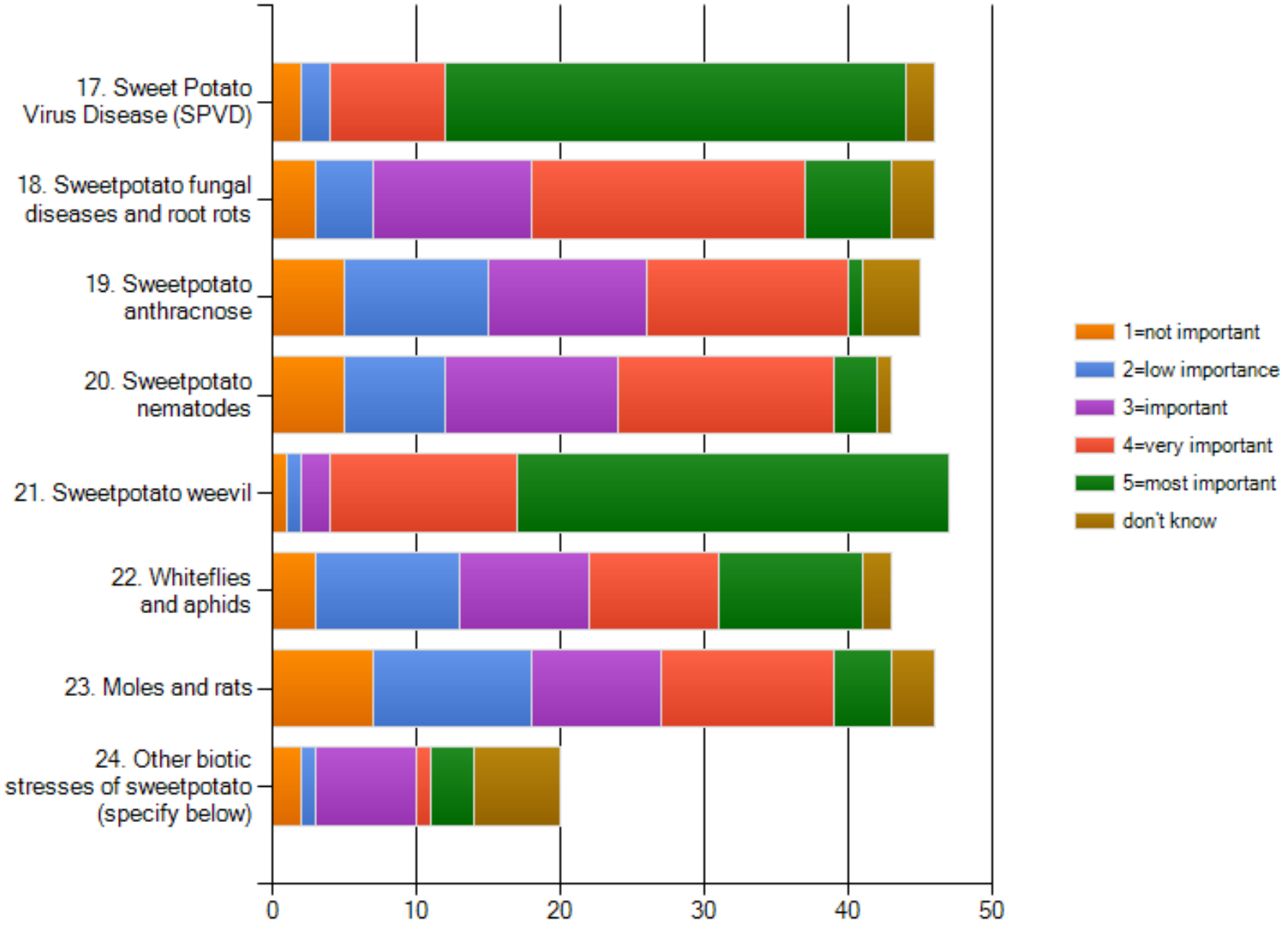

A.1. Breeding for crop improvement



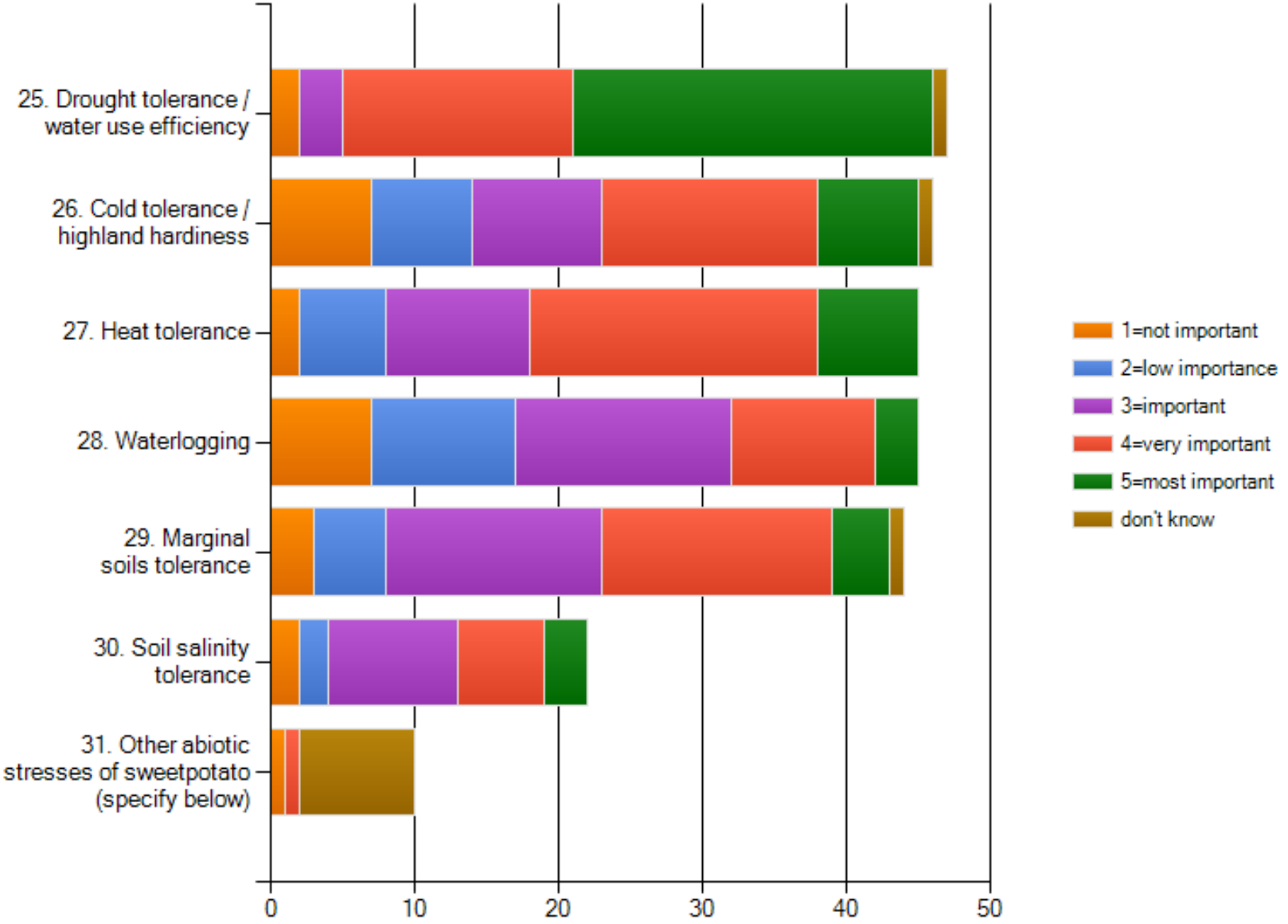
A.2. Breeding for improvements in nutritional quality



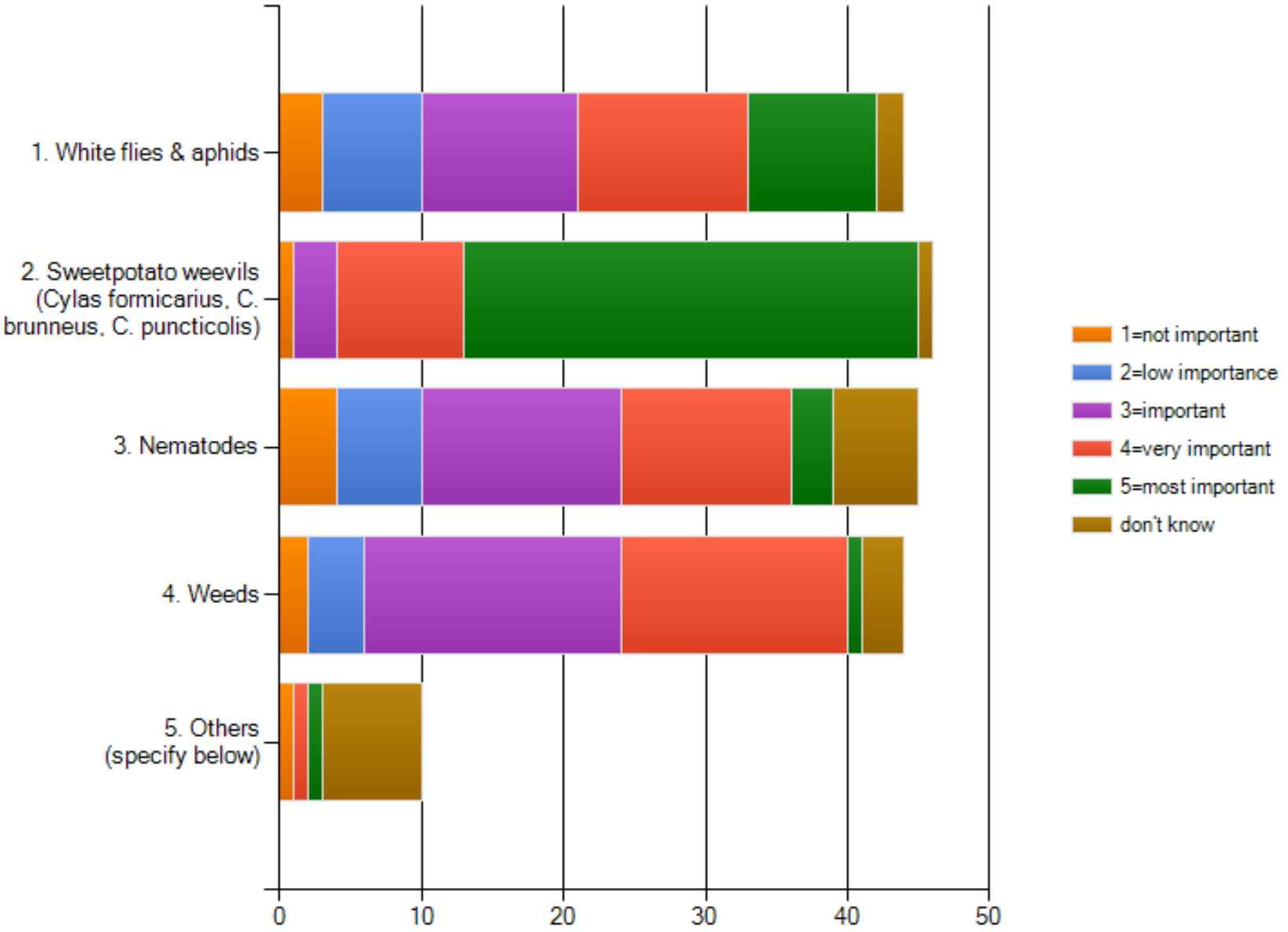
A.3. Breeding for biotic stress resistance



A.4. Breeding for abiotic stress resistance



E. Pest control and management, incl. resistant varieties



Implication of results and next steps

- CRP-RTB needs guidance to focus efforts on most promising options for research: geography, crops, research problems, research options
- Survey of cassava experts GCP21-II, 18 - 22 June 2012
- Priorities:
  (a) Disease management, breeding, value chains
  (b) Pest and disease management, bio-fortified cassava varieties, breeding for other consumer preferred traits, value chains, policy
  (c) Agronomy, pest and disease management, value chains, breeding
  (d) Production technology, genetic resource management, pest management
  (e) Biotic and abiotic, nutritional quality/new uses, value chains
  (f) Planting materials, crop management, policy/impact studies
- More surveys, assessment of input-output functions and costs and benefits for alternative research options